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SOURCE Nan-fang Jih-pao.

KWANGTUNG COMPLETES FIRST STAGE OF LAND REFORM

Kwangtung land-reform activities have covered 13 hsien during the first stage of the program. In seven hsien the reform has been completed. Over 14 million peasants have been affected. Landlordism has been dealt a heavy blow and the farmers aroused. However, many weaknesses need to be corrected and the general organization strengthened to eliminate landlord influence and manipulation and to teach the masses their power.

In the report of Vice-Chairman Ku Ta-ts'un of the Kwangtung Provincial Government to the second conference of All-Circles Delegates, 15 September 1951, the following points on land reform were included: For the past 10 months, land reform has been the prime activity of the Kwangtung provincial people's government. Since the first Kwangtung Conference of All-Circles Delegates, steady progress has been made. At first, three hsien and finally 13 hsien were included in the first stage of the land-reform program. The reform has been completed in the following seven hsien: Hsing-ning, Chieh-yang, Lung-ch'uan, Hao-shan, Ch'u-chiang, Nan-yu, and Feng-shun. In the remaining six hsien, the program is in various stages of completion. In all, 4,603,915 persons have been affected.

In January and April 1951, the South China Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party convened two large cadre conferences during which land-reform experience was summarized. Notwithstanding the earlier accomplishments, it was recognized that reform among the peasants of the province had not yet reached large-scale proportions. It was also recognized that because of the present limited degree of political consciousness and organization of the masses, as well as the training level of cadres and the strength of feudal influences, the land-reform program would have to proceed in three stages.

The people's government of Kwangtung Province, concurring with the resolutions of the April conference of the South China Bureau of the Central Committee of the

CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 -

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CCP, used many troops to consolidate regions. Over 43,000 cadres were sent out to rural areas to open a province-wide movement to promote rent reduction and rent deposit refunds and clear the land of brigands and warlords. This was the first stage in land reform and was completed in time for the summer harvest in the last ten days of July.

The unprecedented accomplishments of the past ten months attest to the vast scope, great speed, and vigor of the movement. Feudalism was crushed in an area inhabited by over 4.6 million people. The first stage of land reform was begun in an area populated by over 14 million, with more than 7,295,000 of the masses aiding in the struggle. Over 2,330,000 farmers were organized. Skeleton cadre groups quickly made the masses aware of the struggle and what it meant to them. Grain refunds collected by the end of April amounted to 650 million catties for this area. This effectively eased the spring shortage and alleviated peasant living conditions. Special agents and Kuomintang guerrillas were caught and more than 100,000 pieces of military equipment confiscated.

The reform movement brought to light operational errors of 1950. The treacherous plots of landlords, special agents, and warlords are still being hatched, the most dangerous tactic being that of boring from within. In the guise of "leftists", special agents and provocateurs enter the people's camp, usurp key positions, and spread confusion. The weak points of our reform movement are apparent in poor organizational balance, superficiality, failure to spread over a sufficiently large area and to convince the local peasantry of its own superiority, insufficient cadres, and as yet only small-scale destruction of the propertied class. Past errors must be corrected, for this work is vital. During August, the South China Bureau of the Central Committee of the CCP convoked another congress to reassess the experience and knowledge gained in this first stage of land reform. The committee decided that cadres were to be more thoroughly indoctrinated, the masses more closely contacted, the people's courts more frequently used, and landlords more decisively crushed.

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- 2 -

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